GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3163
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
IMPACT OF DROUGHT ON WATER RESORUCES
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study on the likely impact of drought situation on the water resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contingency plan made to overcome the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) Rainfall and its consequent effect in the form of drought is a stochastic phenomenon, which cannot be assessed in advance. The impact of drought is minimised by monitoring the available water resources and its optimal utilisation. Government is having a close watch on the water available in the reservoirs of the country by monitoring 70 important reservoirs which constitute 74% of the total live storage in the country. The reservoir position is widely disseminated to agricultural planners. Further, water being a State subject, schemes for water conservation, including those benefiting drought prone areas, are operated by the State Governments as per the prevailing ground condition. Ministry of Water Resources has advised the State Governments to take over the exploratory wells drilled / constructed by Central Ground Water Board and energize them for use to draw water. Services of Central Ground Water Board have also been offered to the State Governments for drilling of wells in drought affected areas.